

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
OFFICERS
AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF MERRIMAC
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1888.

MERRIMAC, MASS.:
PRINTED AT THE BUDGET OFFICE,
1888.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MERRIMAC:—

In compliance with the duties of the Board, we present the twelfth annual report of the financial showing of the various departments for the past year. In so doing we call attention to the causes which have contributed to some of the overdrafts, as shown in the table of recapitulation.

With the increasing demands of the public, and the addition of new streets the appropriation heretofore made for highways, is not more than enough to meet the ordinary expenses. The time has come, we think, when the town should give due consideration to the pedestrian. With but few exceptions, there is hardly a street in town that has what would be called a good sidewalk, while there are streets with no walks at all. The four new streets accepted at the last annual meeting are in bad condition, and have been neglected for want of means to do with.

It will be observed by reference to the department of highways that the overdraft was on account of the widening of Liberty street, the expense incurred in the construction of new sidewalks, the two heavy falls of rain during the summer and the heavy fall of snow during the winter, the construction of the sewer or drain in Main street opposite the Prescott House, and one opposite the Bay State Felt Boot and Shoe Company's factory; also the expense of lighting the streets has been

charged to this department. These are the circumstances that confronted the department and had to be met with.

There ought to be a more defined action by the town in regard to the construction of sidewalks; "as it is," the town pays one-half the cost of a concrete walk, regardless of where it is, or any supervision of its construction. It has been the custom and practice heretofore to grade and set the edgestones for a walk, and the department has continued that practice the past year. We believe the town should have the supervision of the construction of its walks, as well as its streets, in order to have uniform work and proper grades, and should define what part of the construction it would pay for. While we regret the showing of the amount overdrawn we are confident that the public has received the benefit of it, and will if they do not now, appreciate the improvements made. We trust the work begun last fall in laying out and beautifying the "Training Field," so called, will be carried forward to completion the coming year.

In contemplation of the new highway to be built at Merrimacport and improvements that will be called for, and are needed, we hope the town will be generous in its appropriation for this department the coming year.

The overdraft for town officers is simply on account of the town not appropriating a sufficient sum. As the pay of the town officers amounts to about the same every year, it seems desirable to make the appropriation somewhere near the amount required.

Of the amount expended on account of the illegal sale of intoxicating liquor there is due from the county forty-two dollars for the amount paid to A. B. Brown for analysis of liquors.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. M. MORSE,	} Selectmen of Merrimac.
C. E. ROWELL,	
N. P. CUMMINGS,	

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

TEACHING.

George F. Joyce, Jr., Principal High school.	\$ 999 98
Helen K. Spofford, Assistant " "	512 50
Mary E. Rogers, Grammar school, Center,	150 00
Ellen Gunnison, " " "	300 00
Carrie M. Evans, Intermediate " "	360 00
Clara E. Philbrick, 1st Primary " "	315 00
Etta H. Colby, 2d " " "	300 00
S. Evannah Stiles, 1st " " Prospect St.,	315 00
Flora E. Fourtin, 2d " " "	90 00
Nettie A. Ricker, 2d " " "	210 00
Helen W. Trask, Grammar " Merrimacport,	432 50
Laura G. Rowell, Intermediate " "	308 00
Josephine V. Mason, Primary " "	291 25
Minnie L. Nowell, Landing " "	143 00
Bessie A. Veal, Bear Hill " "	360 00
Edith P. Haskell, Birch Meadow " "	141 00
Lulu O. Short, Highlands, " "	141 00
Olive Hill, Music teacher.	217 50
	\$ 5,586 73

CENTER SCHOOL.

Harry I. Cummings.	Care of rooms,	\$ 66 25
George F. Joyce, Jr..	"	30 00
M. A. Perry,	"	15 33
Albert B. Chase,	"	38 70
S. S. Blodgett,	Coal.	102 00

Wm. Jones,	Repairs,	\$ 10 60	
E. T. Parrow,	"	25 40	
Heath Bros.,	"	5 61	
Sargent & Currier,	"	21 36	
E. C. Owen,	"	9 45	
F. H. True,	" on clocks,	1 55	
W. H. Blodgett,	Moving piano,	2 00	
T. L. Goodwin,	Repairs and tuning instruments,	8 00	
		<hr/>	\$336 25

PROSPECT STREET SCHOOL.

F. G. Harrington,	Care of rooms,	\$ 15 00	
Arthur C. Carroll,	"	30 00	
F. L. Atkinson & Co.,	Coal,	49 56	
E. T. Parrow,	Repairs,	2 00	
Merrill & Co.,	"	50	
R. P. Coombs,	Planting trees,	3 00	
E. C. Owen,	Repairing stoves and pump,	7 50	
		<hr/>	197 56

MERRIMACPORT SCHOOLS.

Arthur Colman,	Care of rooms,	\$ 66 50	
F. L. Atkinson & Co.,	Coal,	37 56	
L. B. Blaisdell,	Wood,	4 88	
George W. Sargent,	"	2 50	
James Whittier,	Repairs,	17 67	
		<hr/>	129 11

LANDING SCHOOL.

Minnie L. Nowell,	Care of room,	\$10 00	
L. B. Blaisdell,	Wood,	9 00	
James Whittier,	Repairs,	2 39	
		<hr/>	21 39

BEAR HILL SCHOOL.

Christopher Sargent,	Care of rooms,	\$ 25 20	
S. S. Blodgett,	Coal,	18 50	
E. T. Parrow,	Repairs, labor.	9 00	
J. Martin,	" "	32 40	
Wm. Jones,	"	25 59	
Sargent & Currier,	" lumber,	23 43	
George W. Sargent,	"	47 56	
		<hr/>	181 63

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

7

BIRCH MEADOW SCHOOL.

Edith P. Haskell,	Care of room,	\$12 00	
L. W. Lewis,	Wood,	3 00	
Calvin Sargent,	Repairs,	2 15	
		<hr/>	17 15

HIGHLAND SCHOOL.

L. E. Bancroft,	Wood,	\$ 13 00	
		<hr/>	13 00

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

Wm. Ware & Co.,	Books,	\$ 28 00	
W. P. Adams,	"	2 75	
Thompson, Brown & Co.,	"	13 35	
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.,	"	4 85	
Boston School Supply Co.,	"	10 00	
George S. Perry,	"	29 11	
B. A. Fowler & Co.,	"	35 00	
J. W. Ripley,	"	14 40	
Clark & Maynard,	"	1 68	
Silver Rogers & Co.,	"	2 16	
A. C. Stockin,	"	128 81	
Ivison, Blakeman & Co.,	"	15 50	
D. Appleton & Co.,	"	42 88	
Harrison Hume,	"	5 00	
F. L. Weare,	"	22 00	
Martin, Garrison & Co.,	"	18 00	
		<hr/>	373 49
Geo. F. King & Merrill,	Supplies,	66 15	
Chas. H. Whiting,	"	7 54	
J. L. Hammett,	"	21 18	
A. M. Little & Co.,	"	1 00	
Carl Schoenhof,	"	3 92	
Ginn & Company,	"	11 24	
Edith P. Haskell,	"	54	
Geo. F. Joyce, Jr.,	"	12 99	

Chas. A. King,	Supplies,	\$ 6 50	
S. A. McConnell,	"	5 82	
E. C. Owen,	"	18 14	
C. E. Rowell,	"	27 65	
Winchester Furniture Co.,	"	15 00	
Leach, Shewell & Sanborn,	"	1 80	
W. W. Lydston,	"	52 95	
Adams & Ingraham,	"	5 10	
Merrill & Co.,	"	1 50	
Oscar F. Howe,	"	3 73	
Harper Bros.,	"	3 60	
N. L. Howe,	"	70	
A. S. Barnes & Co.,	"	5 09	
J. H. Cleary,	"	3 97	
		<hr/>	276 11
W. C. Russell,	Expressage,	\$ 16 90	
Boston & Maine R. R.,	Freight,	42	
Geo. F. Joyce, Jr.,	Changing desk and services		
	rendered,	9 12	
Harry E. Chase,	Packing books,	1 50	
R. A. Sargent,	4 shoe cases,	60	
C. E. Little,	Team,	2 00	
		<hr/>	30 54

CLEANING SCHOOL HOUSES, YARDS AND VAULTS.

Mrs. E. Sheridan, cleaning school rooms, Center			
and Plains,		\$ 44 00	
Mrs. Lundquist, Cleaning school room, Prospect st.,		1 00	
Miss Lundquist,	" "	Bear Hill,	3 00
Lydia Goodwin,	" "	Landing,	1 00
Christopher Sargent, Cleaning up yard, Bear Hill,		3 00	
Crosby Bros., Cleaning vaults,		7 00	
Wm. Merrill,	" "	1 50	
		<hr/>	60 50
	Total,		\$ 7,133 51

POOR DEPARTMENT.

Support of R. S. Patten.

J. H. Cleary,	supplies,	\$ 42 99	
F. L. Atkinson & Co.,	coal,	8 00	
L. B. Blaisdell,	wood,	4 00	
		<hr/>	\$54 99

Support of M. Burke.

C. E. Rowell,	supplies,	56 41	
F. L. Atkinson & Co.,	coal,	19 14	
L. B. Blaisdell,	wood,	3 75	
		<hr/>	79 30

Support of Wm. I. Curtis.

W. C. Howe,		44 00	
Commonwealth of Massachusetts,		20 28	
		<hr/>	64 28

Luella J. Lewis,	support of Mrs. A. R. Gray,	110 00	
Calvin Sargent,	" Lillian O. Gray,	90 00	
H. Maria Gray,	" 2 Gray children,	126 92	
Otis Currier,	" Mrs. Allison and daughter,	152 00	
Mary Clooney,	" Agnes Clooney,	52 00	
Town of Amesbury,	" Eliza Patten,	111 00	
"	" Kate McCabe,	36 40	
"	" J. McCabe,	30 34	
Danvers Lunatic Hosp'l,	" A. R. Lawson,	169 46	
"	" Michael Riley,	175 62	
Worc'r Insane Asylum,	" A. C. Hoyt,	177 46	
A. P. Chaples,	" Ann M. Waining,	104 00	
Mary Pressey,	rent to Smith Quimby,	48 00	
F. W. Winslow,	watching with Thos. Brown,	2 50	
John Scanlan,	" "	8 00	
H. J. Cushing,	Town Physician,	40 00	
		<hr/>	1,433 70
Total,			\$1,632 27

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.

District No. 1.—W. H. Blodgett, Surveyor.

Repairs.	W. H. Blodgett, Surveyor,	\$ 1,365 48	
	Expended by L. E. Bancroft,	31 20	
	John E. Currier, labor,	21 30	
	W. B. Chapman, “	52 08	
		<hr/>	\$1,470 06
Removing Snow.			
	W. H. Blodgett,	112 80	
	L. E. Bancroft,	27 60	
		<hr/>	140 40
Walks and Crossings.			
	Thomas Lahey, setting edge stones,	73 75	
	“ flagging, “	25 86	
	W. F. Duffee, 1-2 concrete walks,	76 37	
	Sargent & Currier, plank in 1886,	6 19	
	W. H. Blodgett, labor,	26 30	
	J. H. Foster, “	2 00	
		<hr/>	210 47
Supplies.	Sargent & Currier, lumber, tile, etc.,	160 66	
	Little & Larkin, tile,	53 70	
	Haverhill Iron Works, sewer grates,	15 00	
	S. S. Blodgett, cement,	7 30	
	Geo. W. Sargent, plank,	20 63	
	E. C. Owen, nails,	1 90	
	D. E. Wadleigh, sharpening tools,	8 80	
		<hr/>	267 99
Liberty Street Widening.			
	Gyles Merrill, land damage,	40 00	
	Elmer P. Sargent, “	150 00	
	J. H. Murphy, “	200 00	

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

11

Expenses on Rowe's house,

Frank Morrill, moving,	\$ 45 00	
Marshal Bros., mason work,	60 00	
E. T. Parrow, carpenter work,	16 93	
Sargent & Currier, supplies,	20 04	
E. C. Owen, " "	6 13	
John Scanlon, labor,	5 00	
Michael Kennedy, " "	5 00	
T. K. Hamilton, brick,	2 10	
W. B. Chapman, plastering,	1 55	
J. B. Judkins, brick,	4 00	
	<hr/>	165 75
Watson Peck, labor, bridge,	4 50	
John Jennings, " street,	17 80	
Geo. F. Martin, " "	15 00	
Martin Durgan, " "	36 60	
Chas. A. Stevens, " "	25 80	
W. H. Emerson, " " "	71 70	
W. B. Chapman, " grates,	17 60	
E. T. Parrow, labor, Mrs. Nowell's steps,	1 00	
Abbott Sawyer, gravel,	10 76	
Little & Larkin, drain pipe,	30 03	
Sargent & Currier, drain pipe, etc.,	53 08	
	<hr/>	839 62
Training Field.		
Sargent & Currier, supplies,	8 59	
W. H. Blodgett, labor,	22 00	
	<hr/>	30 59
Total,		<hr/> \$ 2,959 13

District No. 2.—I. W. Hughes, Surveyor.

Repairs. Isaac W. Hughes, Surveyor,	\$ 595 80	
Removing Snow.		
Isaac W. Hughes,	22 60	
Supplies.		
Sargent & Currier, lumber and drain pipe,	36 85	
Walks and Crossings.		
W. F. Duffee, 1-2 concrete walk,	10 00	
Total,	<hr/>	\$ 665 25

District No. 3.—Christopher Sargent, Surveyor.

Repairs.	Christopher Sargent, Surveyor,	\$ 255 40	
	Albert Heath, labor,	2 00	
		<hr/>	\$ 257 40
Removing Snow.			
	Christopher Sargent,	73 60	
	Albert Heath,	7 30	
		<hr/>	80 90
Supplies.			
	R. H. Sargent, gravel,	8 50	
	D. E. Wadleigh, sharpening tools,	80	
		<hr/>	9 30
	Total,		<hr/> \$ 347 60

District No. 4.—Willard B. Kelley, Surveyor.

Repairs.	W. B. Kelley, Surveyor,	\$ 141 80	
Removing Snow.			
	W. B. Kelley,	20 80	
	Total,	<hr/>	\$ 162 60

ROAD MACHINE.

Geo. Tyler & Co.,	supplies,	\$ 8 00	
West Amesbury Mf'g. Co.,	"	1 25	
W. J. Roiley,	"	1 75	
Little's Express,	"	50	
		<hr/>	\$ 11 50

STREET LIGHTS.

J. F. Batchelder,	care of	\$ 23 90	
G. Willis Cummings,	"	5 00	
Harry Robinson,	"	10 00	
A. M. Colby,	"	10 00	
Abby Thompson,	"	1 50	
Sargent & Currier,	supplies,	33	
J. Damrell,	"	3 75	
Wm. Jones,	"	2 30	
Merrill & Co.,	"	9 50	

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

13

W. W. Lydston,	supplies,	\$	50	
R. P. Russell,	"		71	
E. C. Owen,	"		80	
J. H. Cleary,	"		14	67
R. R. Sorenson,	"		31	31
Little's Express,	expressage,		1	25
Peter Gray,	lamps and posts,		46	80
Atla Manuf'g Co.,	"		10	50
C. E. Rowell,	supplies,		6	29
C. B. Murphy,	care of		12	00
				<hr/>
				191 11
				<hr/>
		\$	4,337	19

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Niagara Engine Company,	services of members.	\$	232	49
Wm. P. Sargent H. & L. Co.,	"		150	00
Gen. McClellan Engine Co.,	"		350	00
Wm. H. Blodgett,	Engineer of Steamer.		50	00
N. F. Stevens,	Assistant	"	25	00
John A. Heath,	Stoker	"	25	00
Thomas Keough,	Steward,		100	00
F. W. Winslow,	"		31	00
George F. Mason,	"		40	00
Merrimac Steamer Co. No. 1,	services of members			
at Newton, N. H.,	fire, May 11, '87.		76	12
				<hr/>
				\$1269 63
F. L. Atkinson & Co.,	coal,		64	57
Dean & Co.,	"		70	63
L. B. Blaisdell,	wood,		10	88

W. H. Blodgett, coal, labor and trucking,	6 25	
Frank Goddard, hauling engine,	3 00	
D. E. Wadleigh, repairs,	6 25	
J. A. Perry, "	4 00	
Wm. Jones, "	1 10	
C. F. Rhodes, "	2 33	
J. H. Cleary, supplies,	18 96	
F. H. True, "	25	
C. E. Rowell, "	91	
Little's Express, expressage,	3 25	
F. Mason, labor,	1 50	
A. W. Mitchell, badges for Gen. McClellan Co.,	35 00	
J. R. Allison, sign for engine house,	5 00	
C. E. Little, transportation of firemen to Newton, N. H., fire, May 11, '87,	12 50	
Manchester Locomotive Works, labor and expense on Steamer,	10 68	
Sam'l Eastman & Co., repairing hose and freight,	5 03	
Am. Fire Hose Mfg. Co., " "	40 10	
W. H. Blodgett, labor Prospect St. reservoir,	53 00	
Sargent & Currier, plank " "	60 14	
	<hr/>	415 33
Total,		\$ 1,684 96

STATE AID.

George F. Bailey,	\$ 36 00	
John Clement,	48 00	
Harriet C. Flanders,	48 00	
Margaret Handley,	48 00	
John Jenkins,	60 00	
Rebecca Kennett,	48 00	
Wm. F. Martins,	60 00	
Hannah P. Tozier,	48 00	
Charles E. Preble,	12 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 408 00

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Appropriation,	\$ 500 00	
	<u> </u>	\$ 500 00

SINKING FUND.

H. O. Delano, Treasurer,	\$ 1,796 00	
	<u> </u>	\$ 1,796 00

NOTE AND INTEREST ACCOUNT.

NOTES.

Loan June 2, 1883,	\$ 1,000 00	
April 11, 1887,	1,000 00	
May 17, 1887,	2,500 00	
July 11, 1887,	1,700 00	
	<u> </u>	\$ 6,200 00

INTEREST.

On Loan June 2, 1883,	160 00	
Sept. 3, 1884,	180 00	
Jan. 5, 1885,	146 00	
June 9, 1885,	252 00	
Dec. 26, 1885,	280 00	
April 11, 1887,	13 33	
May 17, 1887,	23 61	
July 11, 1887,	5 67	
Overdrafts, First National Bank of Merrimac.	2 84	
	<u> </u>	1,063 45
Total,		\$ 7,263 45

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

John T. Wilson,	professional services,	\$ 26 70	
J. P. & B. B. Jones,	"	23 00	
C. F. Rhodes,	expenses,	105 73	
N. P. Cummings,	"	24 63	
A. B. Brown,	analysis,	42 00	
Little's Express,	expressage,	1 10	
	Total,	—	\$ 223 16

TOWN OFFICERS.

E. M. Morse,	Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	\$215 00
C. E. Rowell,	" " "	125 00
N. P. Cummings,	" " "	125 00
Bailey Sargent,	Town Clerk and Treasurer,	37 00
"	Collector,	255 50
"	Registrar of Voters,	30 00
Alex. Smart,	"	30 00
F. C. Delano,	"	30 00
T. H. Hoyt,	School Committee,	55 00
C. E. Rowell,	"	50 00
J. W. Hobart,	"	50 00
George Adams,	Moderator Annual Meeting, March 7, '87,	5 00
C. F. Rhodes,	Police,	170 00
F. H. Beckford,	"	155 00
Philip J. Neal,	"	35 00
J. A. Perry,	"	7 50
Alex. Hanna,	"	5 00
R. S. Bailey,	"	5 00
	Total,	\$ 1,385 00

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.

SARGENT HALL.

R. A. Sargent,	Janitor,	\$ 72 50
First National Bank,	repairs,	62 50
F. H. True,	“ on locks,	1 50
R. H. Outhouse,	“ cupboard in safe,	3 80
J. S. Foster,	“	6 45
Wm. Jones,	“	15 48
W. H. Thomas,	“	40
W. B. Chapman,	“	7 55
J. H. Cleary,	supplies,	11 49
S. S. Blodgett,	“	14 52
Sargent & Currier,	“	2 84
Hoyt & Taylor,	“	2 00
Wm. Winslow,	“	3 00
A. F. Nason,	“	1 50
Crosby Bros.,	cleaning vaults,	• 3 00
Sheridan Bros.,	“ cellars,	80
James Doyle,	“ grounds,	2 00
		\$ 211 33
G. A. R. Post No. 114,	Appropriation for Memorial Day,	75 00
Chas. A. King,	Printing Reports, Check List, etc,	103 00
N. P. Cummings,	Expenses incurred viewing dead bodies,	
	postage, etc.,	7 72
D. M. Means,	Painting guide boards,	1 00
Philip J. Neal,	Summoning town officers, etc.,	6 00
F. H. Beckford,	Serving dog warrant,	2 00
John C. Swett,	Refund of taxes, '84-85,	4 00
J. J. Woodman,	Cutting grass Lower Corner cemetery,	5 00
W. W. Lydston,	Supplies for watering trough,	3 40
C. E. Little,	Team for Pension Agent,	2 00
Little's Express,	Expressage,	5 35
E. M. Morse,	Use of horse,	15 00

Bailey Sargent,	Recording Births, Marriages and Deaths,	37 20
“	Summoning town meeting and postage,	6 86
W. B. Kelley,	Services, Forest Wards,	31 20
W. H. Sargent.	“ “	18 10
D. E. Wadleigh,	Repairs on hearse,	2 70
West Amesb'y Mfg. Co.,	“	3 35
H. J. Cushing,	Return of Births,	11 50
J. Damrell,	“	75
P. Pendergast,	Return of Deaths,	2 50
Total,		<hr/> \$ 554 96

RECAPITULATION.

	Receipts and Appropriations.	Expendi- tures.	Overdrawn.	Unexpended.
School Department, <div> <div> Appropriation, Books sold, Tuition, </div> <div> 112 70 187 55 180 27 3 05 </div> </div>	\$6.625 00 23 59 112 70 187 55 180 27 3 05			
Poor Department, Highway Department, Fire Department, <div> <div> Appropriation, Town of, Newton, N. H., </div> <div> 1,500 00 142 62 </div> </div>	\$7.132 16 1,600 00 2,000 00	\$7,133 51 1,632 27 4,337 19	\$ 1 35 32 27 2,337 19	
State Aid, Public Library, Sinking Fund, <div> <div> From State Treasurer, </div> <div> 1,642 62 405 00 500 00 </div> </div>		1,684 96 408 00 500 00 1,796 00	42 34 3 00 1,796 00	
Note and Interest Account, <div> <div> Appropriation, Loan April 11, '87, " May 17, '87, " July 11, '87. </div> <div> 4,700 00 1,000 00 2,500 00 1,700 00 </div> </div>				
Intoxicating Liquor, Town Officers, Miscellaneous Account, <div> <div> Overdrawn, </div> <div> 9,900 00 500 00 1,000 00 600 00 1,638 72 </div> </div>		7,263 45 223 16 1,385 00 554 96	385 00	\$ 2,636 55 276 84 45 04 1,638 72
	\$26,918 50	\$26,918 50	\$ 4,597 15	\$ 4,597 15

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.

Notes of June 2, 1883, to refund town of Amesbury bonds, payable in sums of \$1,000 yearly, bearing 4 per cent. interest,	\$ 4,000 00
Sept. 3, 1884, for purchase of Steam Fire Engine, bearing 4 per cent. interest,	4,500 00
Jan. 3, 1885, to provide a place for the Steam Fire Engine, bearing 4 per cent. interest,	3,650 00
June 9, 1885, on account of rebuilding Essex Merrimac Bridge, bearing 4 per cent. interest,	6,300 00
Dec. 26, 1885, to refund town of Amesbury note, bearing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest,	8,000 00
Feb. 18, 1888, temporary loan, bearing 6 per cent. interest,	2,500 00
Outstanding demands and interest (estimated),	400 00
	—————\$29,350 00

ASSETS.

Due from State, for State Aid,	\$ 468 00
“ First Nat. Bank of Merrimac, for rent,	45 84
Sinking Fund,	4,833 35
Uncollected Taxes,	6,920 51
Cash on hand,	430 50
	—————\$12,698 20
Net debt, March 1, 1888,	\$16,651 80
Debt March 1, 1887,	\$18,734 87
Debt March 1, 1888,	\$16,651 80
Decrease of Debt,	—————\$ 2,083 07

Statistics from the Valuation Book.

	1886.	1887.
Valuation of Real Estate,	\$ 815,380 00	\$ 874,650 00
“ Personal Estate,	400,599 00	443,232 00
	<u>\$ 1,215,979 00</u>	<u>\$ 1,317,882</u>
Gain in 1887—		
Real Estate,	\$ 59,270 00	
Personal Estate,	42,633 00	
Total,	<u>\$ 101,903 00</u>	
Resident Bank Valuation,	141,886 00	141,398 00
Tax on same,	2,128 29	2,050 28
Non-resident Bank valuation,	102,114 00	102,602 00
Tax on same,	1,531 71	1,487 72
Total No. of persons assessed on property,	528	534
“ “ “ for poll tax only,	437	470
Number of Polls,	747	789
“ acres of land assessed,	5,055.6	5,017
“ Dwelling houses,	473	483
“ Horses,	248	273
“ Cows,	211	212
“ Sheep,	58	62
“ Swine,	68	43
“ Neat cattle, other than cows.	79	66
Total tax assessed,	\$ 19,733 68	\$ 20,689 96
Rate of taxation, per \$1000,	15 00	14 50
Rate on polls,	2 00	2 00

Schedule of Public Property.

Sargent Hall,	\$ 20,000 00	
School Houses,	21,000 00	
Public Library,	2,500 00	
Fire Apparatus,	11,300 00	
Cemeteries, Hearse and House.	2,700 00	
Town Landings,	300 00	
Gravel Pit,	50 00	
Town Pound,	50 00	
Town Standards,	150 00	
Law Reports,	350 00	
Street Lamps,	150 00	
Road Machine.	75 00	
	————	\$ 58,625 00

TREASURER AND COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNT.

BAILEY SARGENT, *Treasurer and Collector, in account
with the Town of Merrimac.*

DR.

1887.

March 1.	To cash on hand,	\$ 373 30	
	Uncollected taxes,	5,961 97	
		<hr/>	\$ 6,335 27
19.	Rec'd of G. F. Joyce, for books,	6 10	
	" " tuitions.	37 50	
		<hr/>	43 60
April 11.	" hired of Mer. Savings Bank,	1,000	
May 17.	" " " "	2,500	
		<hr/>	3,500 00
June 6.	" A. H. Rollins, Oleo license,		50
29.	" G. F. Joyce, for books,	5 47	
	" " tuitions,	30 00	
		<hr/>	35 47
July 11.	" hired of Mer. Savings Bank,		1,700 00
Sept. 15.	" of Gleason & Bailey Mfg. Co.,		
	repairs on engine,		3 00
Dec. 3.	" G. F. Joyce, for books,	10 49	
	" " tuitions,	33 00	
		<hr/>	43 49
9.	" State Treas., Corp., tax,	828 85	
	" " Nat. Bk. tax.	306 33	
	" " State aid,	405 00	
		<hr/>	1,540 18
14.	" C. E. Rowell, damage to sch. house,		3 05
1888.			
Jan. 5.	" Town of Newton, N. H., services		
	of Fire Dep't,		142 62
9.	" County Treas., dog fund,		187 55
26.	" State Treas., Inc. Mass. School Fund,		180 27
Feb. 2.	" Town of Amesbury, Bk. and Corp. taxes.		60 39

Feb. 10.	Rec'd of T. H. Hoyt, for books,	\$ 1 53	
	“ “ tuitions,	12 20	
		<hr/>	\$ 13 73
	“ F't Nat. Bk., 18m. rent to Jan. 1, '88,	412 50	
	“ R. A. Sarg'nt, 1yr. rent to Mar. 1, '88,	225 00	
	“ F. H. True, “ “ “	150 00	
	“ Bailey Sargent, 3m. “ “	12 50	
	“ Tattersall, rent,	8 00	
	“ Janitor of Sargent Hall,	116 00	
		<hr/>	924 00
18.	“ hired of Mer. Savings Bank,		2,500 00
	Tax list for 1887,		22,177 68
	Re-assessments,		104 92
	Interest on taxes,		206 95
			<hr/>
			\$ 39,702 67

CR.

By paid State tax,		\$ 1,507 50	
National Bank tax,		1,517 29	
County tax,		1,260 01	
Selectmen's orders,		26,918 50	
Discount on taxes,		839 00	
Abatements,	1882,	\$ 14 13	
“	1883,	45 19	
“	1884,	63 42	
“	1885,	71 23	
“	1886,	47 75	
“	1887,	67 64	
		<hr/>	309 36
Uncollected Taxes,	1883,	\$ 207 54	
“	1884,	462 40	
“	1885,	1068 01	
“	1886,	1451 43	
“	1887	3731 13	
		<hr/>	6,920 51
Cash on hand,		430 50	
		<hr/>	\$ 39,702 67

REPORT OF
THE COMMISSIONERS OF SINKING FUND.

MERRIMAC, MASS., February 24, 1888.

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen :

The Commissioners of Sinking Fund submit the following report :

DR.

Amount of funds on hand, per report of 1887,	\$ 2,975 12
Interest accrued, Merrimac Savings Bank,	39 03
“ Haverhill “	23 20
Received from Town Treasurer, 1888,	1,796 00
	———— \$ 4,833 35

CR.

Amount deposited in Merrimac Savings Bank,	\$1,004 15
“ “ Haverhill “	533 20
Notes of Town of Amesbury,	3,296 00
	———— \$ 4,833 35

H. O. DELANO,
Treasurer of Com'rs of Sinking Fund.

SARGENT HALL.

REPORT OF THE JANITOR.

MERRIMAC, MASS., FEB. 23, 1888.

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen :

As Janitor of Sargent Hall, I submit the following report.

The hall has been open during the year just closing forty-four times, as follows :

Town meetings,	2
Political meetings,	7
School purposes,	1
Entertainments,	19
Temperance meetings,	7
Miscellaneous,	8
—	44

Received for use of hall, \$116.00.

 Paid to town treasurer, \$116.00.

R. A. SARGENT, Janitor.

POLICE REPORT.

MERRIMAC, MASS., FEB. 9, 1888.

To the Board of Selectmen :

We submit the following report :

Number of arrests,	18
Arrests for drunkenness,	8
Number of seizures,	5
Number of complaints,	1
Number of tramps cared for,	51

Respectfully,

C. F. RHODES,
F. H. BECKFORD, } Police.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

BIRTHS.

Number of Births recorded,	57
Males,	30
Females,	27
Father native born,	38
" foreign "	19
Mother native "	39
" foreign "	18
Father and mother both native,	31
" " both foreign,	11

MARRIAGES.

Number of Marriage licenses issued,	22
" Marriages recorded,	19
First marriage of bridegroom and bride,	18
Second marriage of groom,	4
" " bride,	3
Grooms native born,	13
" foreign "	9
Brides native "	15
" foreign "	7
Average age of groom,	31.4
" " bride,	26.3

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths,	35
Average age,	32 years, 10 months.
Oldest person,	87 years, 3 months, 6 days.
Under 5 years,	11
Still born,	2
Males, native born,	17
“ foreign “	2
Females, native “	16
Of native parentage,	23
“ mixed “	4
“ foreign “	8

DOGS.

Number of Dogs licensed,	112
Males. 106 Females,	6

BAILEY SARGENT, Town Clerk.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS.

To the Board of Selectmen of Merrimac—Gentlemen :

While the fire losses throughout our entire country have largely exceeded those of any previous year in its history, we are very glad to be able to report so slight a loss in our own town. The entire loss amounting to five hundred and three dollars and forty-two cents, fully covered by insurance.

FIRES.

There has been but two alarms during the year, to both of which the fire department responded promptly and efficiently. The first of these occurred on the forenoon of May 12th, at the residence of Mrs. Goodrich on Main street ; cause, a defective flue ; loss, very small. The firemen were quickly on the spot, and in ten minutes from the first alarm had two lines of hose laid and water coming through the pipes. This we consider quick work and very creditable to the department.

The second and last alarm was on the evening of July 4th for fire in a house on Nichols avenue owned by the late John A. Nichols. This proved to be a very stubborn fire to handle owing to the construction of the house, but was extinguished at a loss of three hundred and fifty dollars—fully insured. Cause unknown but, probably, fire crackers.

At both of these fires, the steamer company laid all the hose they have, viz. : one thousand feet, and at the latter fire this not being sufficient, the Niagara company were called upon to lay the balance required, some two hundred feet.

This, of course, caused the latter company some delay in

getting to work and also left them short of hose, they having barely enough to reach the fire; and, had a length of hose burst (as is not unusual), they would have been obliged to suspend operations altogether.

HOSE.

The great need of the fire department to-day is more hose as there are many places in town where if a fire should break out every foot we now have would be required by the steamer in order to reach it; in which case, the other companies could do nothing and their engines be rendered useless.

We have now in the department but twenty-two hundred feet of hose in all, apportioned among the three companies as follows: To the steamer, 1000 feet; to the Niagara, 800 feet; to the Gen. McClellan, 400 feet.

Should a fire of any considerable size break out, the steamer will have to be depended upon to do the greater part of the work; and, as the pond is the only place where an unlimited supply of water can be obtained, it would seem advisable to locate there at once. This leaves the reservoirs free for the hand engines and for which they are amply sufficient. There should be 2000 feet of hose attached to the steamer as she can easily force water that distance and do good fire service; and, probably, within a radius of 2000 feet from the pond is contained three-fourths of the most valuable property as well as the most dangerous fire risks in town. We are extremely fortunate in having such a water supply in our midst and should certainly be prepared to utilize it in case of need.

In the light of the above facts, we certainly hope the town will vote at the annual town meeting to purchase one thousand feet of good hose in order that all our apparatus may be made available at any fire that may possibly occur.

ORGANIZATION.

The department, as organized at present, consists of one hundred and eight officers and privates, as follows: One chief engineer, two assistant engineers, one steamer company of twenty men, two hand engine companies of thirty-five men each, and one hook and ladder company of fifteen men.

RESERVOIRS.

There has been one reservoir built during the past year,

making ten in all, which are in good condition but with the exception of two or three not of sufficient capacity to supply the steamer at any protracted fire.

APPARATUS.

The apparatus consists of one steam engine, two hand engines and a hook and ladder truck: each engine having a hose reel attached. The apparatus is in good condition and can be depended upon, should the occasion arise, to do good service.

It is the opinion of the Board, however, that, in the case of the Niagara engine, the results to be obtained are hardly commensurate with the cost of maintenance. This is, in no part, due to lack of efficiency in the company attached to this engine, but to the fact that it is a very old and extremely heavy machine, that it draws hard, and the number of men in the company (35) is not sufficient to work her for more than a few minutes at a time. The intention, at the time the steamer was bought and the department re-organized, was to keep her in commission, appoint a small company to take charge of her and form a sort of nucleus around which the citizens would rally and with their assistance perform the same service as of old.

But, the fact is, the citizens don't rally to any great extent under these circumstances and the result is the machine has got to stop occasionally and let the boys get their breath. Now, if a light second hand engine could be put in place of this one—a machine that twenty-five men could draw anywhere and work it after getting it there—the town would receive much better service for money expended than under the present arrangement.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

We would recommend that the sum of \$1500 be appropriated for current and general expenses. We would also recommend that the town purchase 1000 feet of good hose. And we would further recommend that a reservoir be built at the Lower Corner, directly opposite the residence of Moses Sargent, Esq. Such a reservoir, built of plank, could be put in at a small expense, fill itself from the brook, and would cover at least \$10,000 worth of property now wholly unprotected.

INSURANCE.

The time has gone by when we could depend on insurance

companies wholly ; and, -to-day, towns are rated to a certain extent as to their facilities for extinguishing fires, and insurance rates are made accordingly. Therefore, in considering the expense of the fire department, don't forget to place to its credit the large saving effected in insurance rates. And, if this amount could be ascertained, we have no doubt it would largely exceed the whole cost of the department.

In conclusion, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to our many friends who assisted in making the muster of last October a splendid success ; and to all the officers and members of the department for the prompt and faithful manner in which they have performed their various duties.

Respectfully submitted,

ED. H. SARGENT, Chief Engineer.

H. G. STEVENS, First Assistant.

ALBERT PARKER, Clerk.

Merrimac, Feb. 18, 1888.

REPORT OF THE
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF THE TOWN OF MERRIMAC.

To the Board of Selectmen of Merrimac—Gentlemen:

The present report chronicles the history of the twelfth year of our Library's existence. Its good condition has been well maintained, its work has been excellent during the past year, and while no innovations have been made, still the patronage shows plainly the appreciation of our citizens of a well regulated library. That the Public Library is not merely an ornament, but rather a necessity is demonstrated by the fact of its circulation being an annual average of more than 11,000 volumes. During the past year 11,098 books have been delivered at 100 openings of the Library rooms and as follows: In February (1887) 961, March 1204, April 1151, May 826, June 824, July 943, August 429, September 724, October 995, November 866, December 1115, January (1888) 1060. During the month of August the usual vacation of two weeks was taken. The largest number of books delivered in one day was 200, while the average daily delivery was 111. There has been no loss of books during the year, but the continual wear of volumes taken out produces a strain which necessarily detracts from the good appearance of the books upon our shelves. The trustees desire to impress upon our patrons the necessity of more care while having public property in their charge. The additions to the Library during the past year have been 262 books, received from the following sources: Purchased from annual appropriation, 207; volumes presented, 2; public documents, 26; purchased from the Goodwin fund, 8; magazines bound, 19. We are indebted to the late Dr. Nichols for the two volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica.

It is our sad duty to chronicle the death of another of our board of Trustees—and one that from the first has been a valued member of this board, whose portrait we are pleased to say

adorns the walls of our Library room. We refer to the late Dr. James R. Nichols, the founder of this Library, and we know of no more appropriate eulogy at this time than to place on record the copy of resolutions which were passed at the time of our benefactor's death, January 1, 1888, at a special meeting of the Trustees, viz:—

It is with profound regret we have learned of the death of our late associate and esteemed friend, DR. JAMES R. NICHOLS, the senior member of this Board, whom Divine will has removed from our number, and

WHEREAS, The Merrimac Public Library was founded in 1876 by the generosity of Dr. Nichols, who, having established the library, has contributed valuable additions during the several years since its organization, and in whose integrity and judgment his associates have at all times had implicit confidence; therefore

RESOLVED, That by his death we have lost a valuable member of the Board of Trustees, and one who has given an earnest example of his interest in the welfare of his native town; that we desire to place upon record the deep sense of the irreparable loss our Board has sustained, and our appreciation of the services rendered; that we sympathize most deeply with the many who mourn his loss, who will miss his kindly bearing and generous benefactions; that representatives of the Trustees attend the funeral; that copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of our late associate, be entered upon our records, and printed in the local papers.

We have often referred to the condition of our cramped and insufficient quarters, living constantly in hope that some native of our beloved town whom fortune has favored with a liberal competency of this world's goods, will some day donate a suitable building for a Public Library, or contribute sufficient funds for the erection of such a structure where we can find more room and our patrons more convenience for reading and study. Such a noble gift would endear the donor to the hearts of the people and hand his honored name down to future generations for all time.

The regular annual appropriation is a necessity for the future as well as for the past and we respectfully solicit its continuance for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

E. M. MORSE,
GEO. O. GOODWIN,
S. A. McCONNELL,
M. PERRY SARGENT,
GEORGE ADAMS,
DANIEL J. POORE,

} Board
of
Trustees.

D. J. POORE, Secretary.

Merrimac, February 17, 1888.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Year Ending March 1, 1888,

D. J. POORE, *Treasurer, in account with Merrimac Public Library.**DR.*

To balance from previous year,	\$ 1 44	
Received from Catalogues,	4 90	
" Cards,	1 05	
" Damaged book,	35	
" Fines,	46 50	
" Binding books,	70	
" Town appropriation,	500 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 554 94

CR.

By paid for Books and Magazines,	\$259 83	
" Librarian,	200 00	
" Printing,	38 70	
" Repairs,	2 34	
" Sundry supplies,	8 79	
" Binding Books,	30 80	
" Expressage,	3 25	
Cash on hand,	11 23	
	<hr/>	\$ 554 94

Respectfully submitted,

D. J. POORE, Treasurer.

Merrimac, Feb'y 17, 1888.

CEMETERY ACCOUNT.

THE OLD CEMETERY.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

JOHN B. HEATH, *in account with the Merrimac Burial Ground.*
DR.

1887.

Feb. 1.	Deposited in Savings Bank,	\$ 252 08	
	Interest to October, 1887,	11 46	
		<hr/>	\$ 263 54

CR.

	Cash paid Chas. Stevens,	\$ 11 00	
	for care of yard,	2 00	
	Deposit in Bank,	250 54	
		<hr/>	\$ 263 54

JOHN B. HEATH, Treasurer.

LOCUST GROVE CEMETERY.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

DR.

Feb. 25.	Balance on hand,	\$ 53 01	
	Received from sale of lots,	125 00	
		<hr/>	\$ 178 01

CR.

1887.

May 5.	Paid T. C. Thurlow,	\$ 17 50
Aug. 2.	D. B. Mozier,	18 00
Dec. 2.	"	12 30
20.	J. M. Wood,	6 50

1888.

Cash on hand,	123 71	
	<hr/>	\$ 178 01

J. A. LANCASTER,
I. B. LITTLE,
C. E. ROWELL, } Trustees.

TOWN OFFICERS.

SELECTMEN,

E. M. MORSE, C. E. ROWELL,
N. P. CUMMINGS.

CLERK, TREASURER AND COLLECTOR,

BAILEY SARGENT.

HIGHWAY SURVEYORS,

WM. H. BLODGETT,	District No. 1
ISAAC W. HUGHES,	" 2
CHRISTOPHER SARGENT,	" 3
WILLARD B. KELLY,	" 4

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

ALEX. SMART,	Terms expires 1888
FRANK C. DELANO,	" 1889
JOHN S. CLEMENT,	" 1890
BAILEY SARGENT,	Town Clerk

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

THOMAS H. HOYT,	Term expires 1888
CHARLES E. ROWELL,	" 1889
JOHN W. HOBART,	" 1890

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY,

*JAMES R. NICHOLS,	Term expires 1888
GEORGE O. GOODWIN,	" 1888
S. A. McCONNELL,	" 1889
M. PERRY SARGENT,	" 1889
DANIEL J. POORE,	" 1890
GEORGE ADAMS,	" 1890

TOWN OFFICERS.

COMMISSIONERS OF SINKING FUND,

JAMES D. PIKE,	Term expires	1888
H. O. DELANO,	"	1889
J. B. JUDKINS,	"	1890

TRUSTEES OF CEMETERY,

C. E. ROWELL,	Term expires	1888
J. A. LANCASTER,	"	1889
I. B. LITTLE,	"	1890

FIRE ENGINEERS,

ED. H. SARGENT, H. W. STEVENS,
ALBERT PARKER.

FOREST FIRE WARDS,

WALTER H. SARGENT, WILLARD B. KELLEY.

POLICE,

C. F. RHODES,	F. H. BECKFORD,	W. H. BLODGETT,
J. A. PERRY,	L. W. HOWE,	JOHN ROBINSON,
N. L. HOWE,	S. P. JACKMAN,	R. S. BAILEY,
	ALEX. HANNA.	

SURVEYORS OF LUMBER AND MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK,

JOHN E. CURRIER, ALBERT HEATH, I. W. HUGHES.

FENCE VIEWERS,

J. D. PIKE, G. S. HOYT.

FIELD DRIVER,

P. J. NEAL.

* Deceased.

ARTICLES IN WARRANT
FOR
Annual Meeting, Monday, March 5, 1888,
AT TEN O'CLOCK A. M.

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2. To choose a Town Clerk.

Art. 3. To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of sections sixty-four, sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-seven and sixty-eight of chapter twenty-seven of the Public Statutes, in regard to the election of Selectmen.

Art. 4. To choose Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

Art. 5. To choose a Treasurer and Collector of Taxes, and fix the compensation for collection.

Art. 6. To choose one School Committee for three years.

Art. 7. To choose one Trustee of the Cemetery for three years.

Art. 8. To choose two Trustees of the Public Library for three years.

Art. 9. To choose Constables.

Art. 10. To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of sections seventy-four, seventy-five, seventy-six and seventy-seven of chapter twenty-seven of the Public Statutes, providing for the election of road commissioners; and should the provisions of the said sections be accepted, then to proceed to the election of road commissioners in conformity thereto; if not, to choose highway surveyors.

Art. 11. To choose Surveyors of Lumber and Measurers of Wood and Bark.

Art. 12. To choose Fence Viewers and Field Drivers, and all other necessary town officers.

Art. 13. To see if the town will accept the Jury List as revised by the Selectmen.

Art. 14. To bring in their votes by ballot — Yes or No — on the question: "Shall Licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

Art. 15. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to defray the necessary expenses and charges of the town for the ensuing year, and make appropriations for the same.

Art. 16. To see if the town will authorize their Treasurer, under the direction of the Selectmen, to hire money in anticipation of taxes or to pay any indebtedness of the town.

Art. 17. To see what discount, if any, the town will allow for the prompt payment of taxes, and to fix the time for the payment of taxes. Also, to see what rate of interest, if any, the town will charge on taxes remaining unpaid after the time fixed for the payment thereof.

Art. 18. On petition of H. O. Delano, George G. Larkin and others,

To see if the town will vote to purchase one thousand feet of fire hose, and make the necessary appropriation therefor.

Art. 19. On petition of I. B. Little, F. S. Merrill and others, To see if the town will vote to enlarge or make such changes in Sargent Hall, as will make it suitable to let to traveling shows, or for other entertainments; if so, to choose a committee of three to obtain plans and estimates for the same and report at a future meeting.

Art. 20. On petition of Ed. H. Sargent, H. G. Stevens and others, To see if the town will vote to pay the members of Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1 at the rate of twenty-five cents per hour for such extra work as they may be required to perform; such extra work consisting principally in filling reservoirs and the extra care of hose thus made necessary.

Art. 21. On petition of George G. Larkin, Bailey Sargent and others, To see if the town will vote to light all the street lamps now erected; and also erect lamps near C. H. Palmer's on Main street; also at the corner of Middle and Locust streets, and at other places where public convenience requires them.

Art. 22. On petition of D. W. Gould, M. Perry Sargent and others, To see if the town will appropriate the sum of Seventy-five dollars to be expended under the direction of Post 114, G. A. R., in the observance of Memorial Day, May 30, 1888.

Art. 23. On petition of the School Committee, To see what action the town will take toward providing additional school accommodations.

Art. 24. On petition of Thomas H. Hoyt, T. M. Miles and others, To see what action the town will take toward authorizing the School Committee to appoint a Superintendent over a part, or all, of the schools of the town.

Art. 25. To see if the town will vote to move the hearse house from the cemetery to the land owned by the town in the rear of the engine house on School street, and enlarge the same to accommodate the storing of the road machine, tools, etc., belonging to the town.

Art. 26. To see if the town will vote to restrain neat cattle and horse kind from running at large.

JURY LIST

Prepared by the Selectmen for adoption at the Annual Town
Meeting, March 5, 1888.

Stillman S. Blodgett,
Joseph W. Bartlett,
Wm. H. Colby,
Roswell J. Eaton,
John S. Foster,
D. Warren Gould,
Lawson W. Howe,
Gilman S. Hoyt,
Francis S. Heath,
True Hoyt,
Herman W. Kelley,
Willard B. Kelley,
James T. Locke,
John L. Merrill,
James F. Pease,
Geo. W. Paine,
Chas. F. Rhodes,
Henry H. Story,
Calvin B. Robinson,
Wm. P. Colby,
Edward C. Tibbetts,

Joseph W. Colby,
John E. Currier,
Ralph H. Sargent,
Geo. W. Sargent,
Chas. N. Sargent,
Walter H. Sargent,
Chas. W. Sawyer,
Chas. F. Wilder,
David B. Wright,
Chas. E. Williams,
John J. Woodman,
John S. O'Connell,
Richard A. Sargent,
Thos. W. Sheridan,
Richard S. Bailey,
Arthur C. Sargent,
Geo. E. Ricker,
Fred B. Follansbee,
Sewell P. Jackman,
Henry P. Davis,
D. Edwin Bennett.

In Memoriam.

WILLIAM P. SARGENT.

BORN

November 24, 1819.

DIED

February 27, 1888.

It is but fitting that this brief mention should be made of one who has been long and actively connected with the business interests of this, his native town.

In early life he became associated with the carriage business, and continued in the same until the year 1885.

During all the years of his business career, in which he was actively engaged, he was always interested in everything appertaining to his native place.

From the accumulations of his business he caused to be erected the public building known as "Sargent Hall," which was dedicated and presented to the town, November 13, 1876.

May the monument thus built long stand for the enjoyment of those to whom he gave it, as well as to the memory of his act of benevolence.

DR. JAMES R. NICHOLS.

BORN

July 19, 1819.

DIED

January 2, 1888.

Death has taken another, who, although not residing with us, has shown by his generosity that he held us in remembrance.

In 1877 by his thoughtfulness and kindness he founded and gave to the town of his nativity the Public Library.

While we are enjoying the benefit of so magnificent a gift we cannot but ever cherish with high esteem the memory of the benefactor.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF MERRIMAC
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1888.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THOMAS H. HOYT,	Term expires	1888
CHARLES E. ROWELL,	"	1889
JOHN W. HOBART,	"	1890

TEACHERS

1888-89.

HIGH SCHOOL.

GEORGE F. JOYCE, JR.,	Principal
HELEN K. SPOFFORD,	Assistant

MERRIMAC—CENTER.

Grammar,	*ELLEN GUNNISON
Intermediate,	CARRIE M. EVANS
First Primary,	CLARA E. PHILBRICK
Second Primary,	ETTA H. COLBY

PROSPECT STREET.

First Primary,	S. EVANNA STILES
Second Primary,	†NETTIE A. RICKER

MERRIMACPORT.

Grammar,	HELEN W. TRASK
Intermediate,	LAURA G. ROWELL
Primary,	JOSEPHINE V. MASON

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Landing,	MINNIE L. NOWELL
Highlands,	LULU O. SHORT
Bear Hill,	BESSIE A. VEAL
Birch Meadow,	EDITH P. HASKELL

MUSIC,

OLIVE HILL.

*Mary E. Rogers substituted during Summer term.

†Flora E. Fourtin resigned.

REPORT.

The School Committee of Merrimac respectfully submit their twelfth annual report.

Dr. Hobart was elected his own successor at the last annual meeting, and the board organized with T. H. Hoyt as chairman.

The schools were assigned for the year to the several members of the committee as follows: The High, the Center Primaries, the Bear Hill, and Highland, to Mr. Hoyt. The Center Grammar, the Center Intermediate, the Plains Primaries, and Birch Meadow to Dr. Hobart. Those at Merrimacport and the Landing, to Mr. Rowell.

THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Upon entering the High School room, the visitor at once notices the disproportion in the number of the boys and girls, who compose this school. The whole number of scholars is fifty-six, *only fifteen of whom are boys*. It is also a noteworthy fact that but few of the boys who enter this school finish the course of study.

Why do so few of our boys enter the High School, and of those who enter, why do so few graduate?

While a few of the scholars leave our schools to pursue a course of study in other institutions of learning, a general answer to this question, it seems to us, must be, that a liberal education, and a well disciplined mind, are too lightly valued, as equipments by means of which the best success in life is to be realized.

Our High school offers advantages which the youth of our

town cannot afford to barter for days of idle pleasure, or even to exchange for the pecuniary consideration and the experience which they may obtain by entering at once upon the vocation which they propose to make the business of life. It is admitted, by all who are most competent to judge, that the young man, rightly trained in the schools, will accomplish far greater results in life by reason of that training. Certainly, the school is entitled to the confidence of the community and, having in view their personal welfare and the interests of the town, we would impress upon the graduates of our Grammar schools the importance of pursuing at least the English course of study in this school.

The school has had a very successful year. Last summer an exceptionally fine class of eight young ladies graduated; and we cannot forbear to state here that one of the class, Miss Laura P. Patten, in a recent examination for admission to the Salem Normal School, with thirty-seven other young ladies who were graduates of high schools and seminaries, took the highest rank.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Our Grammar schools have had another prosperous year under the instruction of the same teachers who have taught with marked success heretofore. During the summer term, Miss Gunnison, of the Center Grammar, was absent on account of illness in her home and Miss M. E. Rogers of Rowley occupied her place in the school room very acceptably.

In view of the fact that many scholars complete their education in this grade, we have endeavored to make the course of study a practical one and as extensive as the time spent here will allow. In addition to reading, writing, spelling and drawing, practical arithmetic is studied during the whole time; United States history, grammar and physiology are completed; language is taught orally and by written exercises, and geography is reviewed. Mr. Prince, agent of the State Board of Education, when reviewing our schools last fall, remarked that the grade of our Grammar schools compared favorably

with most of those in the state. Yet we are of the opinion that, in the near future, another year should be added to the course of study here.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.

The Intermediate schools, being next in grade above the Primaries, receive into their ranks at the beginning of the school year those scholars who have successfully completed the course of study in the last named schools. As there are two first Primaries at the Center from each of which a class graduates every year. The Center Intermediate is large, the school now numbering forty-five scholars. In a school of this grade if the classes are large, the time devoted to each scholar in recitation is necessarily limited, and the best results are not obtained. The pupil may be studious and quick of reception, and the teacher willing to direct and happy in her methods of explanation and suggestion; yet, in order to fix the ideas he may have acquired and to give them "local habitation and a name," it is all important that the pupil should have opportunity in recitation to express them in precise language. The time spent in recitation under the direction of an able teacher is the most valuable part of his school life. The short time which can be devoted to pupils in recitation is not the least of the many evils which are the result of too large schools. The teacher has been devoted to her charge and indefatigable in her exertions for the advancement of the school and the progress which has been made is very satisfactory.

The school of this grade at Merrimacport is smaller, numbering twenty-nine scholars. It affords us pleasure to be able to report that, under the vigorous and intelligent efforts of its present teacher during the year, the school both in discipline and instruction has continued to advance steadily. It would greatly encourage the teacher, lighten her work and be of the greatest advantage to the school, if parents would more frequently express their sympathy and their appreciation of her efforts, by friendly calls at the school room; and this remark

may be made general in its application to the schools throughout the town.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Our four Primary schools were never in so good condition as at the present time, notwithstanding most of them have been in overcrowded rooms throughout the year, and some of them in rooms hardly suitable for a school of any size.

There has been no change of teachers in these schools, excepting that during the summer vacation Miss Nettie A. Ricker of New Durham, N. H., was elected teacher of the Plains Second Primary, to supply the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Flora E. Fourtin.

The advance in the art of teaching is nowhere so apparent as in the Primary grades. It is not many years since Primary School teachers in rural towns considered that their work of teaching consisted principally in hearing their scholars "read and spell" twice a day. One who has not kept pace with the advancement in the methods of teaching in these schools would be astonished at the proficiency in knowledge of the little scholars here. In addition to reading, spelling and numbers, they learn to write and draw; they make considerable advancement in the art of composition, and of expressing their ideas orally, besides gaining a large amount of other useful knowledge upon various subjects, which would once have been regarded as creditable to scholars in schools of much higher grade. And this has been accomplished without crowding or overworking the scholar, but simply by directing in a pleasant manner his natural activity toward these things. The Primaries are the basis of our whole common school structure. How important that the foundation shall be well laid. The pupils here are of an age when they receive impressions readily and retain them permanently. Any defect in the physical, moral or mental training of the lowest primary scholar cannot easily be eradicated in after years, and will continue to exert a detrimental influence through all the higher grades.

What a responsibility then rests upon the teacher of the

Primary school? How necessary that she should be of sterling character, should possess knowledge of the best methods of instruction, and have the natural aptitude to teach, and withal have that sympathy which prompt her to exercise almost parental care over her pupils.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

There are four ungraded schools in town. These schools, excepting that at Bear Hill are very small, and many of the scholars live at such a distance from the school house that it has been deemed inexpedient to continue the fall term more than three months, thus giving but six months schooling during the year. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, these schools do excellent work, and there are many bright scholars here, who in deportment and scholarship rival their more favored mates in the graded schools. The only practical way at present, it seems to us, to secure to those in these districts their full share of school advantages, is for the town to make an appropriation for the conveyance of scholars in these districts to and from the more central town schools. A statute law permits towns to provide for such conveyance.

Would parents in these districts favor such an appropriation and will they take measures to secure it?

The Bear Hill school numbers forty-nine scholars, and the terms correspond in length with the graded school. A great drawback to this school, and one which affects all ungraded schools of large size is the large number and great variety of its classes; and this is an evil which it is impossible in any great measure to remedy. The labor of the teacher by reason of the large number of classes is very arduous, but is cheerfully performed and with very satisfactory results.

MUSIC.

During the winter term of 1886-7, as an experiment, Mr. Joyce taught vocal music in his own school, and with so good results that he has continued his instruction to the present time.

In all the other graded schools and in the school at Bear

Hill, weekly lessons in this branch have been given by Miss Hill through the year. In most of these schools, instruction by the regular teacher of music is supplemented by daily exercises in singing. We believe that music should be continued as a permanent branch in our schools. It enlivens the mind of the pupil, relieves the monotony of school routine, and is elevating and refining in its influence.

Considerable advancement has been made by all the schools during the year. The coming year an outlay of about seventy-five dollars should be made for music books and charts.

SUPERINTENDENCE OF SCHOOLS.

The matter of school supervision has been brought to the attention of the town.

Your committee realize the importance of intelligent, continuous, and systematic oversight of the public schools. In nearly all the cities and larger towns of this state a superintendent of schools is annually chosen by the school committee, whose duty it is to devote himself to the study of public education; to visit the schools, and carefully examine them as to their progress and condition; to advise the teachers upon the best methods of instruction and discipline; to hold stated meetings with the teachers; to conduct the school examinations; to pay particular attention to the classification of the schools that a uniform course and system may be pursued; and, generally, to have the care and supervision of all the schools and school buildings, under the direction and control of the committee. These superintendents are usually men who have specially devoted their life to the cause of education, and have fitted themselves for the performance of their duties, as for a distinct profession.

The sentiment of all leading educators and friends of our common schools is a unit in favor of thorough supervision of the schools; and an effort, sanctioned by the State Board of Education, is now being made to obtain from the present legislature, an act designed to render pecuniary assistance to small towns in aiding them to employ a school superintendent.

Last summer a proposition was made to the committee, that Mr. Joyce, our High school principal, be permitted to devote a part of his time in supervising the schools at the Center; and this seems to be favored by a considerable number of parents. Against this proposition it may be urged, firstly, that the performance of his duties as supervisor would materially interfere with his duties as teacher; and, secondly, that *all* the schools in town need supervision as well as a part of them. On the other side, it might be urged that the benefit to schools superintended would be so apparent that the town would be convinced of the importance of extending supervision to all the schools. As the committee had not been authorized by the town to employ a superintendent, the movers of the measure were recommended to submit this question of supervision to the town at its annual meeting.

Your school committee know that they have not given that personal attention to the schools which they demand, and which would be expected of a superintendent; but they have specially endeavored to place in charge of your schools, teachers who are competent, and devoted to their work; who strive to make teaching a profession, and to become familiar with new methods; and who aim to keep pace with the constant advancement in the art of teaching generally. In this, we believe we have in a good degree succeeded; and that, as a whole, our corps of teachers is excelled in but few, if any, towns of its size in the state.

While we submit to the town, the question whether the committee shall be authorized to employ a superintendent, we would earnestly urge upon all parents and friends of the schools to act as superintendents themselves; to visit the schools; to make suggestions and criticisms; to confer with the teachers and the committee; and to manifest the interest and the solicitude which we know they feel. We believe that this course would inspire teachers and scholars, and would have an effect almost magical.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

Last summer the much needed repairs of the Bear Hill

school house were made. A new floor was laid; the north side of the roof was shingled; and the outside of the house thoroughly painted. A new fence was also built, to take the place of the old one, which had become greatly dilapidated, and totally unfit for the purpose for which it was made. The house is now in good condition, and with its improved surroundings, presents a neat and comely appearance. We hoped to be able to paint the walls of the school room, but the appropriation would not permit. The larger school house at Merrimacport needs some repairs which should be made the coming season. The Primary room at the 'Port is in similar condition as the Primary rooms at the Center, which will be spoken of further on.

Additional school accommodations should be provided at the Center. All the rooms in both houses are well filled, and some of them are taxed to their utmost capacity. The growth of the town is evidenced by the steady increase in the number of its school children. In the summer of 1883, the Plains school house was completed, in which, in the fall of the same year, two schools of good size were established.

There are now *eighty-two* more school children in our town than in the spring of 1884; and the increase has been mostly in the Primary schools at the Center. The number of enrolled scholars at the 2d Primary school in the Center house is *fifty-six*, and at the lower Primary in the Plains house, *fifty-seven*. If as many new scholars apply for admission to these schools the present year as entered them last year, there will be nearly or quite *seventy* children for each of these schools. *What are the Committee to do with them?* The Center First Primary school has *forty-one* scholars; the Plains First Primary, *forty-nine*; the Center Intermediate, *forty-five*; and the Grammar, *thirty-eight*. There is no opportunity therefore to provide for this surplus of scholars in the lower schools by advancing a class from one room to another. Additional school room must be provided, and this means *a new school-house*.

We wish here to call attention to the Center school house.

This house has five school rooms and a recitation room. Two of the school rooms are located in the front part of the building, and are in very good condition and passably suitable for the purpose for which they are used. The other three and the recitation room are in the rear or old part of the building and are altogether unfit for school rooms; they are low, cheerless, inconvenient and unattractive. On cold days it is impossible, with the present facilities for heating, to make them comfortable. During the past winter the janitors have faithfully performed their duties, working early and late, yet on some mornings the temperature of the two Primary rooms can be raised scarcely above the freezing point; so schools must be dismissed or the children remain to suffer by the cold to the serious danger of their health.

There are no means of ventilating the rooms in the rear part of the building, except by the doors and windows. Of course, in warm weather a free supply of air can be obtained in this way, but the children are exposed to draughts and are liable to take cold.

The school room where so many hours of our children's life are spent should be so constructed that an education may be gained there without endangering health and life, and not be a place where the seeds of disease and death lurk to take root in their tender lives, perchance to bear bitter fruit in after years.

We believe that many of the ills which afflict school children and which are usually ascribed to hard study, are caused by breathing and re-breathing the poisonous vapors of our unventilated school rooms. To show that we are not presenting a picture which exists only in imagination, here are facts. One of these rooms, the second Primary, and this is a fair sample of the three, and the Primary room at Merrimacport, is 32 feet long, 32 feet wide and $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. In this room there are 8704 cubic feet of air. The school in this room numbers fifty-six scholars.

Physiologists tell us that a person needs ten cubic feet of air to breathe each minute. In less than sixteen minutes the

air in this room has been deprived of much of its oxygen, its life, and carbonic acid, a fatal poison, has taken its place. But what is done when sixteen minutes have passed? This poison which increases with every respiration, is inhaled instead of life giving oxygen. The children become restless, their heads ache, and they are unable to study; their blood is poisoned. Walk into one of these rooms from the pure air when school is in session, on a day when it is too cold to use the ventilators (?) we have provided, the doors and windows; and you will not need the aid of a physiologist to convince you of the truth of these statements. These are grave evils which should be speedily eradicated. The remedy is beyond the reach of your committee, and they have directed your attention to them, solely from a sense of duty and feelings of public interest.

If this building is to be used for a school house, immediate steps should be taken to properly heat and ventilate it. But is it in pursuance of a philanthropic or even of a wise business policy, to make so large an outlay upon this house? A new school house must soon be provided for the overplus of scholars.

Experience has proved that it is not true policy to build school houses of one or two rooms scattered about the town, for the accommodation of those children who reside in their vicinity. When this is done the schools cannot be properly graded, and they inevitably become subject to the many evils of the old district system. It seems to us that the time has come to make a radical change in our school accommodations. Suppose a house is now built for the accommodation of one or two schools. How long will it be before another will be needed? Is it not better to use the money which must be expended in buying the land and building a small house and in improving the Center house, in erecting a structure which will be a credit to the town, and meet its educational demands for years to come?

The private residences of Merrimac are an honor and an ornament to the town; and in outside appearance and interior arrangement are evidence of the thrift of its people, and of the

culture and intelligence of their owners. But this cannot be said of our school houses, in which and about which, so many children spend a large proportion of their life. Our town is steadily increasing in growth; and its growth and prosperity should be encouraged in every way; and how can this be done more effectually than by pursuing a liberal educational policy?

APPROPRIATIONS.

Last year the town generously appropriated \$6500 for general school purposes and \$125 for repairs of Bear Hill school house. These sums with the dog money, school fund, and amount received for tuitions, books and other sources amount to \$7132.16. By means of the increased appropriation we have been able to lengthen the sessions of the graded schools to nine months. They should be continued as long next year, and to do this the appropriation should be the same as last year, \$6500.

Respectfully Submitted,

THOMAS H. HOYT,

CHARLES E. ROWELL,

JOHN W. HOBART,

School Committee.

Merrimac, March 1, 1888.

MERRIMAC HIGH SCHOOL.

GRADUATES 1887.

NELLIE MARY BARRY,

LULU WARD BOSWELL,

EMILY STICKNEY CLOUGH,

ANNIE NYE FOURTIN,

LAURA PEARL PATTEN,

MARY SARGENT PRESCOTT,

MARY FRANCES ROWELL,

SUSIE IDA SAYRE.

TABLE No. 1.
STATISTICS OF SUMMER TERM.

SCHOOLS.	Number of Days in term.	Number of Scholars.	Average Number of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Number of Times Late.	Number of Visitors.	Teacher's wages per month.
High, (Principal) . . .	60	54	54	55	47	10	\$105 26
" (Assistant) . . .							50 00
Center Grammar, . . .	60	34	31	28.6	41	13	50 00
" Intermediate, . . .	60	41	39.7	38.5	26	9	40 00
" 1st Primary, . . .	60	39	38.5	34.77	43	16	35 00
" 2d " . . .	60	51	50	43	80	45	30 00
Plains 1st Primary, . . .	60	44	42 5-12	40 23-40	15	21	35 00
" 2d " . . .	60	60	52 1/4	47	66	17	30 00
Merrimacport Grammar, . . .	56	23	22	20	11	8	50 00
" Intermediate, . . .	60	25	25	22	71	24	35 00
" Primary, . . .	60	39	34	31	46	36	35 00
Bear Hill, . . .	60	37	34	32	54	10	40 00
Landing, . . .	60	11	11	10	3	24	22 00
Birch Meadow, . . .	60	20	17	14	56	7	22 00
Highlands, . . .	60	12	11	10	38	1	22 00

TABLE No. 2.
STATISTICS OF WINTER TERM.

SCHOOLS.	Number of Days in term.	Number of Scholars.	Average Number of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Number of Times Late.	Number of Visitors.	Teacher's wages per month.
High, (Principal) . . .	130	56	53.5	50.3	75	18	\$105 26
" (Assistant) . . .							50 00
Center Grammar, . . .	120	38	36.4	33	2	25	50 00
" Intermediate, . . .	120	45	40.3	37.9	23	19	40 00
" 1st Primary, . . .	120	42	41.2	38.8	80	12	35 00
" 2d " . . .	120	55	48	40	137	53	35 00
Plains 1st " . . .	120	48	46 1/2	41 1/2	67	23	35 00
" 2d " . . .	120	56	49.81	42.9	48	37	35 00
Merrimacport Grammar, . . .	114	24	22	20	0	16	50 00
" Intermediate, . . .	120	29	28	25	26	28	35 00
" Primary, . . .	115	28	24	22	52	67	35 00
Bear Hill, . . .	120	49	45	36	231	11	40 00
Landing, . . .	60	10	10	9	2	30	25 00
Birch Meadow, . . .	60	19	17	15	45	14	25 00
Highlands, . . .	60	15	14	13	64	34	25 00

